

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended in an effort to define more clearly over Johnson et al, cited. As explicitly stated in claims 1 and 9, the insulator of applicants' connector has a pair of walls arranged opposite each other to define a holding hole therebetween and a beam portion connected between the walls. In other words, the beam portion has both ends connected to a respective one of the two opposite walls. Furthermore, claim 1 recites the finger pieces of the spring piece as being arranged in the holding hole and extending outwardly of the holding hole. According to amended claim 9, the branched portions of the second contact point are arranged in the holding hole and each branch portion extends outwardly of the holding hole.

Comparing the claimed connector to that of Johnson et al, cited as anticipating claims 1, 2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), it should be noted that the patentees disclose a connector comprising a conductive plate held by an insulator having a beam portion. However, their insulator does not have a pair of walls defining a holding hole therebetween, and the beam portion of the insulator is not connected between such walls (which are absent from Johnson et al's connector). In view of the above, claims 1 and 9 are believed to be neither

anticipated by, nor obvious from, the cited patent. The claims dependent thereon are respectfully submitted to be allowable therewith.

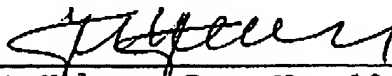
Acknowledgment of the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. 119 is respectfully solicited.

A petition for a one-month extension is attached hereto.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is sent by Fax to the US PTO, Fax No.: 1-703 872-9318 on August 31, 2004.

  
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